

BOOK REVIEWS

The Birds of Greenland. Text by Finn Salomonsen: illustrations by Gitz-Johansen. Part 2, pp. 159-348. Ejnar Munksgaard. Copenhagen, Denmark, 1951. (\$9.00).

The excellence that characterized Part 1 of this splendid work on Greenland birds, which was reviewed in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, 1951, Vol. 65, p. 124, is fully maintained in Part 2, here reviewed. The second part deals with the Rock Ptarmigan, the plovers, sandpipers, phalaropes, jaegers, gulls, and the Arctic Tern. As in Part 1, the text is in both Danish and English arranged in parallel columns. The species accounts are unusually full, the information given is definite, and the nature of the subject matter chosen demonstrates a refreshing ability on the author's part to separate "wheat" from "chaff". Treatment of the species concerned includes a description of each subject, its taxonomy, detailed distribution in Greenland, seasonal and numerical status, habitat requirements, behaviour, food, nesting, eggs, young, voice, enemies, etc. Data on taxonomy, food, the reproductive cycle, and local distribution are particularly full. The account of the Rock Ptarmigan, for example, occupies 22 pages yet there is no redundancy, the information given being pertinent and succinctly written. This book contains a great deal of first-hand information and that derived from other sources is well-documented. The illustrations, by Gitz-Johansen, are handsome. Some of his birds are excellent but a few are a little faulty in posture or structural detail. — W. EARL GODFREY.

The Zygnemataceae. By Edgar Nelson Transeau. The Ohio State University Press. Columbus. 1951; pp. i-xiv, 1-327. pl. 41.

Nearly all biology students are exposed at least once to the filamentous green alga, *Spirogyra*, and perhaps also to the related genera *Mougeotia* and *Zygnema*. However it comes as a surprise to most of them to learn that several other genera and more than 500 species are included in the family. The genus, *Spirogyra*, alone accounts for nearly 300 of these species.

Dr. E.N. Transeau, Professor Emeritus of Botany at the Ohio State University, has long been recognized as the world authority on this group. For many years students of the family have been dependent on his

mimeographed keys for identification of the species. The present volume, completed during the early years of the author's retirement, is the result of a life-time study of the Zygnemataceae and the first monograph of the family to appear in the English language.

The scope of the work is world-wide. Thirteen genera are recognized, although "three genera (*Hallasia*, *Pleurodiscus* and *Entransia*) are tentatively and purposely defined to emphasize the need for further study of (their) development and reproduction." Keys are provided to the species of all genera. Each species is fully described and illustrated, and distributional data are given. Reference is made to the original description of each species and to later transfers and emendations. In the words of the author, "No attempt has been made to guess at the synonymy of all previously published species names. — In the absence of complete descriptions, or of the actual specimens, such conjectures seem gratuitous."

Confidence in this monograph is inspired by the knowledge that thousands of collections have been examined by the author and his colleagues at the Ohio State University. These collections, from all parts of the world were sent in by other phycologists, many of them former graduate students. It is "to the Graduate Students who discovered many new species and extended the known range of many other Zygnemataceae" that the author dedicates his work. — ELWYN O. HUGHES.

Flowering trees of the Caribbean. Paintings by Bernard and Harriet Pertchik. Introduction by William C. White. i-xii. 125 pp. 29 coloured plates. Rinehart & Co. Inc., New York. Price \$10.00.

Travellers in the American subtropics and tropics, whether they are botanists or casual tourists, are invariably impressed by the beauty of some of the flowering trees. They exult over the avenues of flamboyants in southern Florida or Cuba and the striking specimens of shower of gold (*Cassia fistula*), the African tulip tree (*Spathodea campanulata*) or the queen of flowers (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*).

Here is a book to bring back memories of tropical visits, to leaf over when winter's snows are piled high outside our windows.



Hughes, Elwyn O. 1952. "The Zygnemataceae, by Edgar Nelson Transeau [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 66(4), 114–114.

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